

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF ABC'S 7:45 am NEWS

The Iranian students who have been holding hostages in the American Embassy in Tehran for more than a fortnight are to release 10 more of their captives. This will bring to 13 the number of hostages set free following a directive from the Ayatollah Khomeini that the women and blacks should be released. It appears not all the women in the Embassy are to be released in accordance with the Ayatollah's directive. One of the women being released said other women still remain hostage. About 50 Americans and some 20 foreigners are believed to be still held in the Embassy. The students and the Ayatollah have said they will be tried in an Islamic court on charges of spying.

Esso Australia has announced a big oil and gas exploration program in central Queensland. It will cost about \$13 million and will be one of the biggest undertaken in Australia in recent years. The program consists of 4,500 kms of seismic testing and 12 wells to be carried out over the next two years. ABC's Finance Report in Melbourne says it is more than the entire exploration program being carried out in Australia by all companies this year. The exploration in Queensland will cover 140,000 sq.kms. One of Esso's directors, Mr. Ken Richards, says it is hoped that the first testing will begin after the wet season in March or April next year.

An operation has begun in Thailand to move hundreds of thousands of refugees away from the Kampuchean border where a new Vietnamese offensive is expected. Plans are also underway to move refugees from the northern frontier. Report from Paul Lockyer at Thai-Kampuchean border.

Leaders of the Patriotic Front guerilla movement are demanding what they call a substantial Commonwealth force to keep the peace in Zimbabwe Rhodesia. They have rejected as inefficient Britain's plan for a small Commonwealth force to monitor a ceasefire.

The man who confessed to spying for the Soviet Union, Anthony Blunt, is to come out of hiding in Britain and tell his side of the story at a news conference. He made the announcement a few hours after the Prime Minister, Mrs. Thatcher, scheduled a full-scale debate in a special session of the House of Commons tomorrow.

Commercial shipping in the Indian Ocean southwest of Fremantle has been called to the aid of one of the Parmelia yacht race competitors. English schooner radioed yesterday that she had an injured crew member.

President Sadat of Egypt has visited Mt. Sinai on the second anniversary of his journey to Jerusalem which began his peace initiative. The mountain was handed back to Egypt last week, after being held by Israel for 12 years.

Cricket: Australia's test captain, Greg Chappell, believes the team to meet the West Indies will perform well.

A former Rugby League player from Townsville in Queensland has been successful in bringing a civil action against another player and has been awarded over \$2,000 damages. A jury in Townsville awarded the damages for unlawful assault.

One of West Germany's most wanted terrorist suspects has been arrested following a bank raid in Switzerland. The man, Rolph Clements Wagner, was being sought in connection with the kidnapping and murder of West German industrialist two years ago.

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